

# The Flyleaf

Friends of Fondren Library Vol. 33, No. 2

Spring, 1983



## RICE UNIVERSITY FONDREN LIBRARY

Founded under the charter of the university dated May 18, 1891, the library was established in 1913. Its present facility was dedicated November 4, 1949, and rededicated in 1969 after a substantial addition, both made possible by gifts of Ella F. Fondren, her children, and the Fondren Foundation and Trust as a tribute to Walter William Fondren. The library recorded its half-millionth volume in 1965; its one millionth volume was celebrated April 22, 1979.

## THE FRIENDS OF FONDREN LIBRARY

The Friends of Fondren Library was founded in 1950 as an association of library supporters interested in increasing and making better known the resources of the Fondren Library at Rice University. The Friends, through members' dues and sponsorship of a memorial and honor gift program, secure gifts and bequests and provide funds for the purchase of rare books, manuscripts, and other material which could not otherwise be acquired by the library.

## THE FLY LEAF

Founded October 1950 and published quarterly by The Friends of Fondren Library, Rice University, P. O. Box 1892, Houston, Texas 77251, as a record of Fondren Library and Friends' activities, and of the generosity of the library's supporters.

Editor, Virginia Innis; Associate Editor, Lauren Brown; Editorial Committee, Sally Squire, Samuel Carrington, Mary Woodson.

## FRIENDS OF FONDREN LIBRARY

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COVER: Unveiling the statue of William Marsh Rice on Sunday, June 8, 1930. From left to right, Francis Vesey, B.A. '29, B.S. Arch. '30, president of student council; Lillian Horlock (Illig), B.A. '30, president of women's council; Dr. Edgar O. Lovett, president of Rice Institute; Benjamin Botts Rice, nephew of the founder and trustee; William M. Standish, B.A. '16, president of alumni council. [Also pictured but not included in this reprint were Ralph Adams Cram, architect and commencement speaker, and Reverend Doctor James Gordon Gilkey, who gave the baccalaureate address.]

1982-83 has been a highly interesting year for the Friends of Fondren Library, marked by the success of traditional projects and the creation of several new ones that we will pursue in the year ahead. Our activities started with a profitable Book and Record Sale in the basement of the Fondren Library for three days commencing September 16, 1982, followed on Sunday, September 19th by a delightful lecture on the subject of rare books by Sir William Rees-Mogg of London.

The Friends again hosted its annual joint reception with the Rice Engineering Alumni in the Woodson Research Center on Homecoming Day in October. The highlight of this occasion was our presentation of the first Friends of Fondren Library Award to Martha Wicks Lovett and H. Malcolm Lovett. We intend this to be an annual award to a person or persons who have made substantial contributions benefiting the Library.

In November, the Friends were treated to a thought-provoking lecture by Dr. Allen J. Matusow, Dean of Humanities, on "America and Palestine: A Sad and Twisted History" which was followed by spirited discussion of the issue. January was the month of the "Schubertiad," a presentation of the Shepherd School for the Friends and members of the Shepherd Society. This was held on a Sunday afternoon and featured the music of Schubert and varied performances by many talented students.

Fondren Saturday Night III, the Monte Carlo Party, was held on Saturday, February 26, 1983. Almost 350 persons fully enjoyed themselves and the Friends' Endowment Fund grew by over \$8,000. This event shows signs of wanting to outgrow the space available in the Fondren Library but since the Library adds so much to the ambiance of the party, we may have to solve the problem by limiting participation.

On Monday, April 18th, in conjunction with the Association of Rice Alumni, the Friends sponsored a preview of the Student Art Show in Sewall Gallery. An entertaining lecture by Dr. Gilbert M. Cuthbertson on "Stalking the Rice Myth" preceded the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 6th, when more than half of the Past Presidents of the Friends were present to be honored and to receive the Friends of Fondren Library Award.

The principal project undertaken by the Friends this past year is the effort to raise funds for the Sarah Lane Lounge. Under the able leadership of Walter Baker, this project is in the final phase of fund solicitation with construction to start in the near future. Our objective is to have the Lounge in operation by Homecoming, 1983 with Miss Lane herself present at the dedication. Plans for this renovation of the third floor foyer and Friends' office have been several years in the making. We hope that we are now in sight of our goals.

In order to raise funds for the Friends' Endowment, we have this year ordered settings of Wedgwood china dinner plates depicting four different campus scenes — Fondren Library, Lovett Hall, the Chemistry Building and the Campanile. Our sales to date have been good, and delivery is scheduled for fall.

The Friends are contributing funds for the construction of a workroom with sink and microwave oven for the Woodson

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Research Center. This workroom area will be utilized primarily for the various activities of the Woodson but will also be usable as food preparation space for the Friends' Homecoming reception.

Another project initiated by the Friends during this year is the establishment of a contest to encourage book collecting by students. Karl Doerner is chairman of a committee including William Gordon and Gilbert Cuthbertson to work out criteria for the competition and to publish suggestions for the students as to how to go about collecting books. An initial announcement of the contest was placed in the *Thresher* and further notices will be published in the fall. This project represents an outreach to Rice students by the Friends.

Our membership continues to increase. As of June 1, 1983, we have 650 members. Our objective is to attain 1,000 members at the earliest possible date. To do this, we need the assistance of all of you. Brochures and mailing envelopes are available and we will appreciate your encouraging your relatives, friends and neighbors to become members of the Friends of Fondren Library. We particularly solicit the participation of persons new to the Houston community. The Friends of Fondren is by no means a Rice alumni activity. Our strength and our ability to support the Library are greatly increased through the efforts and assistance of individuals who are not Rice alumni but who are members of the Rice community by virtue of their interest and participation in the activities of the Friends of Fondren Library.

Walter Baker, the immediate past president of the Friends, served as chairman of the nominating committee for new officers and directors for 1983-84. In accordance with the provisions of our by-laws, the following persons were elected to the positions noted,

### To be Directors (Three year term):

Frank Bay  
Diana Hobby  
Richard Lilliott  
Robert E. Moore  
Camille D. Simpson

### To be Officers:

President: John T. Cabaniss  
Vice-President, Membership: Sally McQueen Squire  
Vice-President, Programs: Karl Doerner  
Vice-President, Monte Carlo: John Baird III  
Secretary: Peggy Abadie  
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We look forward to a great year of continued progress for the Friends of Fondren; and we ask you for your continued help and support.

Thomas D. Smith  
President

## STALKING THE RICE SHOCK or IN PURSUIT OF THE RICE MYTH

Gilbert M. Cuthbertson

This spring a student called who had seen the title, *The Rice Shock*, in a dealer's display case. Since "the Rice shock" is a syndrome suffered by many students, the book would be a desirable addition to a collection on the Rice Myth. "The Rice shock" leaves students rubbing the grooves on Anderson Hall to make the walls sing. "The Rice shock" leaves others communing with the walls of Fondren which do not have musical properties. Unfortunately, *The Rice Shock* turned out to be a black high school annual from Beaumont and was not added to the Rice Myth collection.

Pursuing books on the Rice Myth immediately involves the collector in the great dichotomy between the official truths regarding our large numbers of National Merit scholars and the well-paid jobs they will receive in the world beyond the Sallyport and the student version, admirably presented in "A Young Texan's Guidebook to the Complete Education at Rice University," a recent brochure from the Admissions Office. President Lovett voiced the official text at the time of the opening of the Institute in his "Spirit of Learning Address:" "It has age and maturity and traditions — some of these traditions you have been making yourselves." *The Book of the Opening* (Houston, c.1912) is, of course, a cornerstone in Rice collecting. The three volumes are dedicated to Woodrow Wilson. My copy belonged to Houstonian Thomas Watt Gregory, who was Wilson's Attorney General.

The unofficial side is reflected in the amazing collection of Fondren graffiti, *The Thresher's* "Midclass," or this verse from *Red Tape* (January 1918): "published in the hope of calling attention to the evil conditions existing at Rice:"

"Here He Is, 'The Educator.'"  
Say, who is the guy with browlet high?  
Friend of the festive worm?  
Who can bisect an arc in a room that is dark  
And hog-tie a comma germ?  
Yes, who knows the sky like you or like I  
Are acquaint with a boiled egg?  
Who's kink of a school with 10,000,000 cool?  
A prey that doesn't beg?  
Who never knew how to milk a cow  
Or wake up a mule with the reins;  
Yet draws down the cash in a way that is rash  
For admixing science and brains?  
What heroes have sped with the days that are dead?  
Whose manners are nifty and nice?  
Yea, who is inclined to a double-deck mind?  
Why, Lovett of old Puffed Rice!  
Another selection begs apologies to the hit tune:

"Where Did Robinson Crusoe Go with Friday on Saturday Night?" The unofficial side includes the beauties whom they admired portrayed in the early numbers of *The Campanile* and *The Rice Broadside* (the NROTC publication). It includes what students laughed at, for example, the story of the porter who was being pestered for more and more ice by drunken travellers until he sobered them up by telling them that the corpse in the baggage car was about to thaw. There was also the imperturbable Chinese student who was being hazed by having pepper put in his tea. Finally the upperclassmen decided that they had a "good owl" so they told him that they would stop putting pepper in his tea to which he rejoined that he would reciprocate by no longer spitting in their soup. I suspect that the modern Rice student laughs at quite something else. At any rate there is a steadily increasing gap between our Rice and that of Julian Huxley's *Memories* (New York: Harper, 1970). Huxley and Davies diligently studied frogs in an area which is still known to students as "William Rice's Marsh." The Huxley papers have been generously added to the Fondren Archives.



Professor Gilbert M. Cuthbertson received his Ph.D. in political theory from Harvard in 1963. Since that time, he has been an astute observer of Rice and a collector of Texana with particular emphasis on Rice. Among other honors, he has won the George Brown Award for Excellence in Teaching. Dr. Cuthbertson gave the lecture on the Rice Myth, peppered with ad-libs to Friends of Fondren at the Annual Meeting, May 8, 1983.

If any of you has read Larry McMurtry's novels you will be able to pick up the contrast between the two myths of the Rice experience. McMurtry, who taught creative writing at Rice, made an early appearance in *Janus* in the Spring of 1964. The McMurtry version of what goes on in Fondren is so totally different, and more exciting, than *The Library User's Guide* seems to indicate. Every couch is filled with innocent coeds and lascivious English profs. The McMurtryian version bears out the judgement of *Playboy* that Rice is the #11 sexiest campus in the United States. (Of course, there were only twenty schools surveyed, and Texas is still #1.) This description contrasts with that of alumni John Graves in *Holiday Magazine* (pp. 76-77, June 1964): "A question some of us here are asking ourselves . . . is whether the school is good and hard, or just plain hard." There is also Hubert Roussel's "Lifting the Rice Taboo" in *The Houston Gargoyle* for June 23, 1920:

Let some friend of the institute murmur politely that a few more dollars of endowment would come in real handy, and somebody else (often in print) is certain to retort in a tone of mild horror: 'But my dear fellow, that place is aloof' . . . as though he had said: 'But that place is where they let hay fever get into the world.' . . .

Certain mothers, no doubt, are now able to keep their offspring in line merely by warning them that . . . a bogey man will whisk them all out to the Rice sallyport and turn them into Aloofs.

This neo-Swiftian world of Aloofs is populated by legendary professors and equally legendary students, all represented in a literature available to the book collector. Many of the items are listed in Nancy Parker's *A Bibliography of Archival Publications in the Fondren Library* (Woodson Research Center, 1980) and in Fredricka Meiners' *History of Rice University: The Institute Years, 1907-1963* (Houston: Rice University Press, 1982). Since the Friends of Fondren are generously bent on fostering bibliomania, a congenital weakness of many Rice students, I thought it would be appropriate to examine a few of the ephemeral items related to the Rice Myth: The heroic architecture; the eponymous hero; the mythmakers; legendary students and professors; student radicalism and conservatism, and the mythic colleges.

For example, the buildings are described formally in Stephen Fox's excellent survey, *The General Plan of the William M. Rice Institute and its Architectural Development* (Houston, 1980). The reader learns of William Ward Watkin and Ralph Adams Cram. Other literature notes the McVey plaques depicting student life on the wall of Hansen and Will Rice Colleges. There is the Romeo and Juliet balcony reproduction on the Chemistry Building. There is the whispering gallery in the Physics Building. Other campus scenes are attractively portrayed on the Wedgwood plates offered by the Friends. Only more rarely do we learn such facts

as that Grace Kelly's father was one of the bricklayers for the Institute and was always proud of his work. Most views of Rice are from a very human perspective, but occasionally the divine enters in as in *The Flying Owls: Rice Institute from the Air* (Houston, c.1921).

Much of the real Rice, however, lies underground, the world of gnomes and steam tunnels. Rice has a vocabulary all its own and uses gnome for the custodial staff. In Theognis' poem to Cynrus it meant enlightenment. How language changes. I remember one student who insisted to the Dean that he could not have been in the steam tunnels because he had been in the storm sewers. The plans, highly classified, were recently salvaged from the trash at Sewall Hall, along with the equally interesting specifications for Rice's nuclear reactor. I suppose that the first canon of good book-collecting is never to overlook any source, no matter how unlikely.

Of the well-known campus landmarks special note should be made of "Willy's Statue" under which repose the ashes of the eponymous founder. There are a number of portraits of William Marsh Rice including one in B. H. Carroll's *History of Houston* (Knoxville, Tenn.: H. W. Crew and Co., 1912). Here is the beginning of the Rice Gothic tradition and an entire literature dealing with the Rice case itself, including Claire Carvalho's *Crime in Ink* (New York: Scribner's, 1929). She was the daughter of the handwriting expert in the case. The book was purchased at a Friends of Fondren sale. There is Arthur Train's *True Stories of Crime* (New York: Scribner's, 1924) and Francis X. Busch's *They Escaped the Hangman* (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1953) which deals with Albert Patrick. Incidentally I met Albert Patrick's welfare worker from the time after his release when he lived in Oklahoma. She did not tell him that she was an alumna of the school which had benefited from his crime.

Dr. Andrew Muir, of course, was the author of the standard biography of Rice, *William Marsh Rice and His Institute* (Houston, 1972). Fondren's copy, donated by Dr. [Katherine] Drew, had to be salvaged from a local garage sale for 10¢. I remember poor Dr. Muir wading through the great Fondren flood salvaging Rice papers and rare books including the sewage and drainage plans for the University. He served as the expert on Rice in the "Rice Will Suit." Rice himself was involved in an interesting piece of litigation, *Olcott v. Rice*, dealing with the Houston and Texas Central Railroad. The founder testified on his coming to Texas: "the great object was to open transportation to the interior; we were dependent upon ox teams." There is also the suit, *Houston Oil Company vs. William Marsh Rice Institute* (Court of Civil Appeals, Ninth District, n.d.), which deals with land and investments, and is represented in the Rice Myth collection.

Other more modern heroes now appear on campus. For example, there are *Saturday's Children* in Giles Tippet's book (New York: Macmillan, 1973). I was fortunate enough to acquire a large number of pamphlets regarding Rice football from Coach Arbuckle's library. It is the "Arbuckle Poll" which uniformly predicts that Rice will be #1 in the Southwest Conference each season. These include the first program of the Rice and A&M football game (November 9, 1914). Speaking of football and the Rice myth, this is a mythological rivalry par excellence. In fact it has been said that if Aggies did not exist, Rice engineers would have to invent them. I remember not only the time that the Rice M.O.B. was held captive by the Aggies but the time that it rescued the remainder of the student body from instant demolition by striking up "The Star-Spangled Banner." The corps of cadets snapped to attention while the Rice students ran back to the stands. I would like to have the banner which read: "Welcome to the CORE," or even the one the pilot towed for two hours over the Astrodome which he mistook for Rice stadium.



The first library, by Margaret Brisbane, '23; one of several sketches from 1920 *Campanile*.

In the crowds on Rice Saturdays there have been many distinguished guests including LBJ. LBJ almost taught on the Rice faculty incidentally, but George Brown told him that it was too dangerous. (Fortunately we have had George Bush as an adjunct professor of the Jones School.) Johnson did appear at the opening of Sid Richardson College. In fact if you examine the *Campanile* for 1971, you will see a picture of the President with a hand thrusting a book at him to autograph. That would be a certain book-collector obtaining another item for the Rice Myth collection. Similar pictures might be located for Henry Kissinger, Barbara Jordan, John Connally, and even Andy Warhol. The secret service agents would not permit an approach to Prince Phillip, and Admiral Rickover would not sign anything, although autographs of both have surfaced at Houston flea markets for several dollars. JFK was in Houston with President Pitzer the day before the assassination, and photographs survive of that visit. I remember when the phone call regarding Kennedy's death came to Cohen House and President Pitzer announced it to the faculty. President Eisenhower also visited, and there is memorabilia from that visit. General Pershing arrived to plant a pecan tree, presumably one of those near Lovett Hall, and I am sure some record exists of that appearance.

Speaking of Andy Warhol, his "Raid the Icebox" approach is a very good one for collecting Rice legends. Of all the legendary personalities at Rice, none is more difficult to trace than Howard Hughes. There is a broom closet in one of the old dormitories which supposedly marks the site of his residence, and I have talked with several girls who dated him. Little else remains except the futile hope that the Drummer will might be authentic.

Among the professors there are so many "greats" that a collection could be constructed solely on their writings, Bray, Tsanoff, Lear, and Bochner, whose papers have just been added to Fondren's collection. Prof. McCants' *Some Information Concerning the Rice Institute* (1955), which was published in a limited mimeographed edition, is one of the rarities of Rice collecting. There was also Prof. Axson, who had to defend his brother-in-law, Woodrow Wilson, against charges of writing love letters to a woman in Florida. He did so in the immortal words: "We Southerners like to write mash notes." George Williams' *Some of My Best Friends Are Professors* (New York: Abelard Schuman, 1958) portrays the types of the Rice professorships without betraying the individuals. It deserves to rank as an academic classic along with Richard Armour's *The Academic Bestiary* (New York: William Morrow, 1974) and Professor X's *This Beats Working for a Living* (New Rochelle, N.Y.: Arlington House, 1973).

Students, like professors, have been avid contributors to the Rice Myth. We have had both radicals and reactionaries in thankfully small numbers who have contributed their wall posters and publications to the collector. I remember one of Rice's great librarians, Dr. Hardin Craig, removing the posters from Fondren in one direction as rapidly as the students were putting them up in the opposite direction. One of my favorites was the *International Werewolf Conspiracy* (Vol. 1#1, only) of the late 1960's. Included was the poetry of El Turque, the People's Poet, presumably an admirer of Abbie Hoffman. An expurgated version is totally blank. These were the days when events were so touchy on campus that security stopped a poor student playing "capture the flag" with a Canadian maple leaf because they mistook it for a Viet Cong banner. The *Space City* exposé of Rice's alleged association with the corporate-militarist-industrialists is a classic (May 9-22, 1970, Vol. 1#20, "Rice: Serving the Rich Since 1912.") I judge that the authors were unaware of the first anti-war protests on the campus which were in 1919 and are described in *Houston: A History and Guide* (Houston: Anson Jones Press, 1942, p. 116): "Turmoil occurred at Rice Institute in January when students protested against military training and regulations by putting the power plant out of operation, breaking windows, and turning a fire hose on military officers..." Today we have the conservative *Vox* (Vol. 1#1, 1982) and the parody, the *Ultravox* (Vol. 1#1, April 1, 1983) for collectors. Student opinion alters over a period of time. Why, according to a *Thresher* poll in 1953 Rice students were only willing to endorse evolution by 62.5%. 84% were enlightened in 1963, but by 1973 they had lapsed to 58.3% (April 26, 1973, p.5).

Students are Rice's most creative resource for the myth-making collector. The colleges have their own publications including *The Phoenix* of "the college of men, gods, and goddesses," Will Rice, which provides some fine ephemera in the program of its glorious triple sweep at the Beer-Bike Race of 1983.

The "Rice shock" is manifested in many ways. I remember the tale of a student radical of the '60's who was rejected by a Zen Buddhist monastery only to become a hermit in the mountains north of Tokyo. In a way the ironies of bookcollecting resemble those of Zen. No source is sometimes the best source. The commonest item becomes the rarest. The collector should recognize a rarity as it is created and preserve it for the future. He should take as his models such alumni and benefactors as John Wright, the Harris Mastersons, Demaris & Hank Hudspeth, the John Hears, Kyle Morrow, and Stephen Hamilton, who have a real sense for historic preservation. Rice students should remember that they are still building myths. As Henry van Dyke wrote in "Texas: A Democratic Ode" (*Rice Institute Pamphlet*, Vol. 1#, April 1915, p12):

Look on the walls that embody the generous dream of one of the old men of Texas . . .

Read the confessions of faith that are carved on the stones around you . . .

This is the faith of the New Democracy

Proud and humble, patiently pressing forward,

Praising her heroes of old and training her future leaders.

This then is our "small school" and with Webster "there are those of us who love it." Many thanks are due to the Friends of Fondren who continue to contribute their support to the building of the Rice Myth.



## MONTE CARLO COLLAGE '83



## A UNIQUE VIEW OF CIVIL-WAR HOUSTON

Lauren R. Brown

*Lauren Brown is Special Collections Librarian in the Woodson Research Center and Associate Editor of the Flyleaf*

Jan. 2 . . . [the prairie] was a handsome sight—so level and without a tree except on one side. Everywhere we stopped the soldiers crowded around us to admire our good clothes . . . they offered all sorts of prices for our clothes in confederate money some of which was taken . . . the cars stopped before we got to the depo and we were landed amid an immense number of men women & children who folowed us through the town to our prison. I doubt if Jeff Davis could have called out such an escort. They did not use much insulting language to us however but looked like wild Indians.

So begins a remarkable passage from the diary of Alexander Hobbs, a 21-year old private in the Union Army, as he entered the city of Houston with many of his comrades on January 2, 1863. Hobbs, then serving with the 42nd Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, had been captured the previous day. His small leather-bound notebook, containing 41 leaves of pencil notes in an indistinct hand, has survived to record his experience as a volunteer recruit in New England, his participation in the Battle of Galveston, and his life as a prisoner behind Confederate lines. The diary of this involuntary visitor to Houston, full of interest for the student of the Civil War, has been recently accessioned by Fondren's Woodson Research Center.

Alexander Hobbs' diary begins with an entry on November 21, 1862—the day his regiment left Massachusetts for the war. He writes of a "sad farewell to our many friends who came notwithstanding the rain to see us off." His regiment, with an unusually short service time of nine months, was assigned to support operations on the lower Mississippi and the coast of Texas. Part of Hobbs' regiment landed at Galveston on December 24, 1862, in order to strengthen the tenuous position of the Union navy in the harbor of the island.

The effort to permanently secure Galveston proved to no avail as the Confederates, under the command of General John B. Magruder, successfully launched a surprise attack on New Year's Day, capturing the Union gunboats *Harriet Lane* and *Westfield*, and storming the city of Galveston with over 1000 troops.



*Major-General John B. Magruder, C.S.A., from Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, 1887-88.*

Hobbs and his comrades, pinned down at one of the wharves of the harbor, successfully held their position against the Confederate troops but were forced to surrender when the remnants of the Union navy retreated into the Gulf of Mexico. The diary graphically recounts Hobbs' brush with death:

The shot and shell came . . . tearing and crashing through the barricade with-

in a few feet of our heads and going through the building we occupied as barracks and scattering the splinters in all directions . . . the cries of the wounded and the noise of the broadside after broadside which went from our gunboats, the shot striking the brick walls and passing through one after another and then bursting is something that requires a smarter pen than mine to describe . . .

Hobbs complains of the conduct of Union Commodore W. B. Renshaw, commander of the *Westfield*, for refusing to come to the aid of the *Harriet Lane*. The unfortunate officer was subsequently killed as he tried to save his men from capture when their ship had run aground on a sand bar in the harbor.

A flag of truce was offered and accepted and the captured Union soldiers were "marched up town . . . and . . . took up [a] line of march for Virginia Point a distance of seven miles." Hobbs then writes:

we arrived at Virginia Point in the afternoon and unslung our knapsacks to wait for the train which was to take us to Houston. I went around to the rebel camp and they set the darkies at work and made ho-cake and fried bakon. The food and the circumstances under which it was eat (sic) made it one of the most interesting New Year meals I ever enjoyed.

Hobbs was confined to a cotton warehouse near Buffalo Bayou; the officers of the regiment were lodged in the upper story of the Kennedy Building in downtown Houston. The *Houston Telegraph* and *Texas Register* gave the Union soldiers credit for being "well dressed and good looking"—perhaps Hobbs had an opportunity to read the *Telegraph*; he writes on January 5 that some of Houston's newspapers "are printed on . . . the corcest (sic) brown wrapping paper." His diary records his impression of Confederate soldiers: "they were dressed in all kinds of clothing—no two being alike. If you could gather all the rag pickers and beggars that are in New England they could scarcely compare with the Texan soldiers."



Magruder's men boarding the "*Harriet Lane*" at Galveston, from *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, 1887-88.

While Hobbs acknowledges that the Confederate authorities in Houston "did everything for our comfort" and allowed "all the officers . . . to go as they please through the city," he complains of being forced to see "our regimental flag flying from a window union down and underneath the stars and bars of the Confederates." More seriously, his diary notes that several free-born blacks from New England who accompanied the regiment to Texas were being sold into slavery. "Such acts," he wrote, "only stir up a hatred to the institution of slavery."

Hobbs and his companions were anxious to be paroled and returned to Union-controlled New Orleans, but the journey through Louisiana—"the worst part of the country in the worst part of the year"—was also dreaded. Their fears were justified; the diary recounts many hardships and not a few deaths during the journey to the Mississippi. Medical supplies were scarce and "everything in the shape of machinery in these parts is old and cannot be depended on."

Hobbs arrived in New Orleans on parole, but faced another difficulty. By this time in the war the Federal Government was reluctant to exchange prisoners, believing (with some justification) that the Confederacy, with its desperate need of additional manpower, had the most to gain from exchange of prisoners and the return of veterans to the ranks of its armies. Hobbs and his paroled comrades, in the midst of furious Union Army activity on the lower Mississippi, were required to stay in camp, "waiting to be exchanged or discharged as the U.S. Government pleases." He comments that this situation was "as dull and boring as being a prisoner in the hands of the rebels almost."

The 42nd Massachusetts was officially discharged after many months of inactivity and after the fall of Vicksburg in July, 1863. The Hobbs diary comes to an end during the middle of his voyage home on the steamer *Continental*; he is noted in the records of the Adjutant General's Office of Massachusetts as having been officially mustered out of service on August 20, 1863. At this point, the New England soldier who chronicled some of the most historic events of the war disappears from history's view.

The Alexander Hobbs diary, including a partial transcription, is on display in the reading room of the Woodson Research Center. Its acquisition is the result of the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar E. Lackner, who have provided the Woodson with a fund for the purchase of historical materials pertaining to the state of Texas.

## PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE FRIENDS OF FONDREN LIBRARY

James L. Whitcomb\* 1950-51  
Mrs. John E. Cashman 1951-52  
F. Talbott Wilson 1952-53  
A. D. Dyess Jr. 1953-55  
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Mrs. Edward W. Kelley 1959-66  
William V. Ballew Jr. 1966-69  
Mrs. C. M. Hudspeth 1969-72  
Ralph A. Anderson Jr. 1972-73  
Mrs. Carl Illig 1973-75  
Mrs. Edward W. Kelley Jr. 1975-76  
Stanley McDonald\* 1976-77  
Mrs. Gerard A. Dobelman 1977-78  
Walter S. Baker Jr. 1978-81  
Thomas D. Smith 1981-83

\*Deceased

## MISS TURNBULL

Ola Zachry Moore

*Ola Moore has been associated with the library since 1962 in many different capacities.*

The death of Euphemia Pender Turnbull on November 16, 1982 in Menlo Park, California ended a life devoted to the enthusiastic support of the Rice Institute/Rice University, the Rice libraries and all things pertaining to Rice. Her active association with Rice began in 1915 as a freshman student at the Institute and ended formally with her retirement as bibliographer and curator of rare books and manuscripts in 1969.

Miss Turnbull was born in Nova Scotia to Mr. and Mrs. James Turnbull, the eldest of four children. Her mother's family was originally from Virginia but moved to Halifax after the Civil War. The Turnbulls migrated westward from Nova Scotia, first to Colorado, then to Roswell, New Mexico where Pender completed her high school education and first heard of the Institute in Houston. Her father had been a visitor in Houston at the time of the sensational William Marsh Rice murder trial and while there, had learned of the plans for a tuition-free education for the "youth of Texas," including girls. With several daughters, Mr. Turnbull had an added incentive to move his family once again, this time to the fledgling city of Houston. Pender enrolled at the Institute in the fall of 1915 and soon met a classmate who was to become a life-long friend and fellow librarian — Sarah Lane. Her sister, Margaret Turnbull (Mrs. Earl C. Cain, '23, of Portola Valley, California), followed in her footsteps and entered four years later.

Miss Turnbull received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1919 and after graduation accepted a summer job on campus for which she was paid the princely sum of twenty-five cents an hour. For this salary, she was required to compile a mailing list from *Who's Who* for the distribution of the *Rice Institute Pamphlet* and to send this publication to the individual names selected. Her careful attention to detail on this job and on earlier clerical work she had done as an undergraduate brought her to the attention of Professor John Thomas McCants, the bursar and secretary to Dr. Edgar Odell Lovett, president of the Institute. Professor McCants recommended that she be hired for a position in the library. Pender Turnbull then went to work for the librarian, Miss Alice Dean, and remained on campus for the next fifty years. What began as a temporary after-graduation job turned into a library career and a love affair with Rice that continued throughout her life.



*Pender Turnbull in 1971.*

The first library at the Rice Institute was on the second floor of the administration building, now Lovett Hall. When books had overflowed into all available spaces in the building, including the flood-prone basement (Miss Lane had once encountered a snake swimming among the shelves after a particularly heavy Houston "gully-washer"), the library was moved to the Physics Building. Here in an area between the biology lab and the physics lab, the rapidly expanding library set up its new quarters. Eventually this site was also outgrown and once again the library was forced to seek a new location — this time the Chemistry Building. There it remained until the Fondren family's generous gift to Rice made possible the building of the Fondren Library in November, 1949.

As the library had grown and expanded with each move, so too had the duties of Miss Turnbull. From her first position in the library in Lovett Hall, she had advanced to head of cataloging and later bibliographer and curator of rare books and manuscripts. By the time Pender reached retirement, her tenure in the library field had spanned the end of one era and the beginning of another. Processing that had been done entirely by hand in the early days had gradually begun to be done by machines and by 1969, the computer age was on the horizon.



**PENDER TURNBULL,**  
2711 Main St.  
Houston, Texas

Candidate for B. A. degree. Y. W.  
C. A. '16-'19; E. B. L. S. '17-'19;  
Les Hiboux '17-'19; Tennis Club  
'17-'19.

Although Pender Turnbull never officially received the title of University Archivist, that is the role for which she was best known to her friends and supporters. She kept an incredible array of facts and figures, dates, events, and even anecdotes about Rice at her finger tips. If she didn't know the answer personally, she could be counted on to find the answer for you. Her memory was awesome and her habit of carefully noting dates and sources on undocumented clippings and memos was legendary. The familiar signature or the well-known initials "EPT" followed by the date on an otherwise unmarked clipping was a welcome sight to a researcher.

Miss Turnbull saved everything because she cherished the dream that some day the Rice library would have enough space to house not only rare books and manuscripts but also the archives of the Institute and the University as well. She hoped that the bits and pieces of history that she had saved could be used to preserve the heritage of Rice for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. Thanks to her zeal for saving memorabilia of those early days, much of that history has been preserved, providing fascinating glimpses of past events. Happily, she lived to see her dream become a reality. The materials she had collected so long and carefully were finally deposited in the handsome new Woodson Research Center that

was part of the addition to the Fondren completed in the late sixties. Here her passion for the past has left a rich legacy for the future.

At Homecoming in 1966, Pender Turnbull was honored by the Association of Rice Alumni for her "outstanding service to Rice University." The text of a scroll presented to Miss Turnbull by the library staff upon her retirement on June 30, 1969 seems to sum up many of her very special qualities. "Her thoughtfulness and unflinching courtesy through the years to newcomers . . . serving their apprenticeships in the library, did much to make each one feel a part of the library family. In her various positions on the library staff over a fifty-year period, she was never too busy to help anyone find information or resources whether that person was a distinguished professor, an administrator, a member of the staff, a student or visitor. Her steadfast loyalty and enthusiastic support of the Fondren Library and all Rice endeavors have endeared her to countless alumni and friends."



Section of group picture of professional library staff taken in 1958 in library lecture lounge (later Kyle Morrow Room). Standing left to right, Jo Ann Sharp, Pender Turnbull, Lorraine Gresham; seated, Richard Perrine, Ann Gabbard and Betty Davis.

## IN MEMORIAM — THREE FRIENDS OF FONDREN

During the past year, as in every year, the Fondren Library has lost many good friends, but few were more distinguished than Milton R. Underwood, James L. Whitcomb and George R. Brown.

Milton Underwood died in July, 1982, following an illness of several months. Over the years, he made immense contributions to educational institutions and service organizations, spending his energies as well as his wealth on countless boards and fund-raising campaigns: Vanderbilt University, the University of Houston, St. Luke's Hospital, the YMCA, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Houston Museum of Natural History, among others.

A native of New Jersey, Underwood worked his way through school, college and later, law school at Vanderbilt. He moved to Houston in 1928, and immediately received a somewhat jaundiced impression of the profession of law when his first employer paid him with two bad checks. After serving as a sergeant-at-arms at the Democratic National Convention held in Houston that year, he went to work for the Second National Bank, where he remained for several years. With his innate appreciation of people and a flair for salesmanship, the young man soon made his presence felt in the prospering community. Three good years with the Seaboard Life Insurance Company (later part of American General) gave him the confidence to establish his own securities company. When World War II was declared, Milton Underwood closed his business and joined the United States Army Air Corps. Emerging from the service with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, he began to put together a merger with Neuhaus and Company and in 1948,

established Underwood-Neuhaus, one of the leading investment firms in the Southwest.

In 1931, Milton Underwood had married Catherine Fondren, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter W. Fondren, and a member of the Rice Class of 1928. When Mrs. Fondren's generosity enabled Rice to build the Fondren Library in 1949, Mr. Underwood developed an interest in Rice that continued throughout the rest of his life. He served on the Board of Governors during the 1950's and in 1968, took an active role in the planning and dedication of the Graduate Research Addition to the library, also funded in large part by the Fondren family. As a memorial to his second son, he and David Underwood established the Peter Underwood Endowment in the Woodson Research Center for the purchase of rare books and manuscripts. In both 1980 and 1981, Milton Underwood was the major donor to the Friends of Fondren Library Endowment Fund.



*Milton R. Underwood*



*James L. Whitcomb*

James L. Whitcomb was the first president and one of the founders of the Friends of the Fondren Library. Born in Seattle, he grew up in New Jersey, and graduated from Brown University. After working in the Department of Commerce in Washington on a Rockefeller grant, he spent a short time in New York before returning to Rhode Island to serve Brown in public relations. A commission in the Signal Corps of the Army brought Mr. Whitcomb to Houston to set up an aircraft warning system, and in 1943, to marry a native Houstonian, Mary Hill Brown, whose twin brothers, William K. and Joseph C. Brown, were attending Rice at that time. After the war, and until

1960, Jim Whitcomb was employed by Kelley Manufacturing Company. The remaining twenty years of his life were busy ones: he worked as a management consultant, but always spent one day a week on Brown University student recruiting and fund-raising; and he served for several years as Chairman of Harris County Red Cross and Houston Neighborhood Centers as well.

Jim Whitcomb was a Brown man through and through, but when the Fondren Library at Rice opened in 1949, he and a group of others recognized the need for the library to have a support organization such as the one he knew of at Brown. A steering committee composed of Whitcomb and several Rice graduates, Katherine Tsanoff Brown, Margaret Dudley Cashman, David Hannah Jr. and William J. Hudspeth, determined to establish the Friends of the Fondren Library "to increase its own membership and to secure funds for the purchase of rare and important materials that could not otherwise be purchased." Their first meeting was held in June of 1950 and the first issue of *The Flyleaf* was sent out a few months later listing a surprising number of Gifts and Memorials. Under Jim Whitcomb's energetic leadership, the Friends were off to a promising start.

functions. Recently, the art library was the recipient of a special grant from the Brown Foundation.

The details of Mr. Brown's boyhood and business career are well-known to the Rice community as are his dedication and commitment to the University for over forty years. The *Houston Post* editorial at the time of his death in January, 1983 noted, "His [life] was the epitome of the American story; He was reared in an appreciation of learning and an expectation of serving his community. He earned his way to the position that made possible his natural generosity. And throughout, he loved and enjoyed each phase of the life span allowed him. . . .

Tall, slender, white-haired in his latter years, a man of tremendous brilliance and drive, he will linger in the memory of those who knew him for his great gentleness and sweetness. No one will ever be able to count the number of lives he enriched and transformed. His death at 84 will not end the influence of the life he lived."

The Friends mourn the passing of these three outstanding men and supporters of the Fondren Library.



George R. Brown

Next to William Marsh Rice himself, George R. Brown was unquestionably Rice University's greatest benefactor. It is impossible to calculate the benefits received by the Fondren Library as a result of his gifts to the University through the Brown Foundation and the Brown Challenge grants. Mr. Brown and his wife Alice have been constant contributors to the Friends' Gifts and Memorials Fund since its inception in 1950 and were frequently in attendance at Friends'



# GIFTS TO THE FONDREN LIBRARY

February 1, 1983—  
May 15, 1983

The Friends sponsor a gifts and memorials program for the Fondren Library which provides their members and the community at large a way to remember or honor friends and relatives. It also provides the Fondren the means to acquire books and collections beyond the reach of its regular budget. All gifts to the Fondren through the Friends' gift program complement the library's university subsidy.

Funds donated through the Friends are acknowledged by the library to the donor and to whomever the donor indicates. Gifts can be designated in honor or memory of someone or on the occasion of some signal event such as birthdays, graduation or promotions. Bookplates are placed in volumes before they become part of the library's permanent collection.

For more information about the Friend's gift program, you may call Gifts and Memorials or the Friends' office (527-4022). Gifts may be sent to Friends of Fondren, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, Texas, 77251, and qualify as charitable donations.

The Friends and the Fondren Library are grateful to acknowledge the following gifts, donations to the Friends' fund and donations of books, periodicals, and other materials to the Fondren. All gifts enhance the quality of the library's collection and enable the Fondren Library to serve more fully an ever-expanding university and Houston community.

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*Homecoming, 1982: Martha Wicks Lovett and H. Malcolm Lovett with Louis Spaw after receiving Friends of Fondren Library Award. George R. Brown.*

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